Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device control method in a system comprising

a) a unit ~~connected to a bus~~ including at least one of an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input signal to the unit from the bus ~~input~~ and an output plug connected to the bus for ~~providing~~ outputting ~~a source of~~ an output signal to the bus from the unit~~output~~, and

b) a subunit included in the unit, the subunit connected to the bus through the unit and having at least one of a destination plug connected to the input plug for inputting ~~a signal~~a destination signal to the subunit from the bus and a source plug connected to the output plug for ~~signal output~~outputting a source signal to the bus, said method comprising the steps of:

a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug ~~connected to the bus~~ or signaling ~~to the~~ the subunit one time for ~~included in the unit to detect~~detecting the ~~input plug or the~~ source plug ~~as the source of signal~~; and

b) receiving ~~the result~~a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) or the subunit signaled in step a)~~receiving the signal~~, the result of detection identifying either the source plug or input plug as a source of the destination signal.

2. (Currently Amended) A device control method in a system comprising a unit ~~connected to a bus~~ including an output plug connected to a bus for outputting an output signal ~~output to a bus~~to the bus from the unit, an input plug connected to the bus for inputting an input signal to the unit from the bus, and a source plug connected to the output plug for outputting a source signal to the bus, said method comprising the steps of:

a) signaling the unit ~~connected to the bus to detect an~~ one time for detecting

the input plug or ~~a source~~ the source plug as ~~a signal source of~~ a source of a designated signal~~output plug~~; and

b) receiving a single ~~the~~ result of the detection provided by the unit ~~receiving the signal~~ signaled in step a).

3. (Currently Amended) A device control method in a system comprising

~~a) a unit~~ a first unit and a second unit, each of the first and second units having an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input signal to the respective units from the bus ~~input~~ and ~~b)~~ an output plug ~~providing virtual signal~~ connected to the bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the respective units~~to a bus~~, said method comprising the steps of:

a) signaling the second unit one time for detecting ~~a virtual~~the output signal ~~in a channel of the bus~~outputted from the first unit; and

b) the second unit receiving ~~information having the virtual~~ the output signal ~~output through the output plug in the channel from a first unit~~ outputted from the first unit~~connected to the bus~~,

wherein a ~~relation~~ relationship between the first unit and a second unit is ~~shown by the information in the virtual signal~~ determined one time by the output signal.

4. (Currently Amended) The device control method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

c) recognizing that the first unit is issuing a first signal;

d) using a third unit connected to the bus to determine if the second unit is issuing a second signal; and

e) processing the first signal by the third unit ~~while~~ if it is determined that the second signal is being issued.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Withdrawn) A device control method in a system comprising

a) a unit including at least one of an input plug for providing a source of signal input and an output plug for providing a source of signal output, and

b) a subunit having at least one of a destination plug for providing a source of signal input and a source plug for providing a source of signal output to a bus, said method comprising at least one of the steps of:

a) requesting the output plug of the unit to designate the source plug of the subunit as a signal source;

b) requesting the destination plug of the subunit to designate the input plug of the unit as the signal source;

c) requesting the output plug of the unit to designate the input plug of the unit as the signal source; and

d) requesting the destination plug of the subunit to designate the source plug of the subunit as the signal source.

7. (Withdrawn) A device control method in a system comprising a first unit and a second unit, each of said first and second units having

a) at least one of an input plug for providing a source of signal input and an output plug for providing a source of signal output, and

b) a first subunit and a second subunit, each of said subunits having at least one of a destination plug for signal input and a source plug for providing a source of signal output to a bus, comprising:

at least one of the steps of

a) requesting the destination plug of the first subunit included in the first unit to designate the input plug of the first unit as the source of signal, and

b) requesting the output plug of the first unit to designate the input plug of the first unit as the source of signal; and

at least one of the steps of

c) requesting the output plug of the second unit to designate the source plug of the second subunit included in the second unit as the source of signal, and

d) requesting the output plug of the second unit to designate the input plug of the second unit as the source of signal; and

the step of

e) requesting the input plug of the first unit and the output plug of the second unit to connect to each other, after at least one of the steps a) and b) and at least one of the steps c) and d).

8. (Currently Amended) The device control method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

c) determining whether or not a further subunit is present along a path from the output plug or along a path from the source plug as the result of ~~detection is~~ the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit.

9. (Currently Amended) The device control method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

c) determining whether or not ~~a signal~~ the output signal is processed along a path from the output plug or whether or not the source signal processed along a path from the source plug as the result of the detection ~~is provided~~ provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit.

10. (Currently Amended) The device control method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

d) determining whether or not the signal is a multiplexed signal having multiple program contents, and

e) determining whether or not

1) there is ~~a signal~~ the output signal along the path from the output plug or

the source signal along the path from the source plug and

2) ~~whether or not~~ part of the multiplexed signal has been extracted along the path from the output plug or along the path from the source plug as the result of the detection ~~is provided~~ provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit.

11. (Currently Amended) The device control method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

d) determining ~~that the~~ whether the output signal or source signal includes video data, and

e) determining whether or not data is added to the video data of the output signal along the path from the output plug or added to the video data of the source signal along the path from the source plug to display contents other than the video data of the output signal or source signal as the result of the detection ~~is provided~~ provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit.

12. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

e) determining whether or not a further subunit is present along a path connecting at least one of the plugs designated in at least one of the steps a) to d) as the signal source.

13. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

e) determining whether or not the signal is processed along a path connecting at least one of the plugs designated in at least one of the steps a) to d) as signal source.

14. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

f) determining whether or not the signal along the path is a multiplexed signal

having multiple program contents, and

g) determining whether or not part of the multiple program contents is extracted along the path when the signal is the multiplexed signal having multiple programs.

15. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

f) determining whether or not the signal along the path includes video data; and

g) determining whether or not data is added to the video data to enable display of the added data when the signal includes video data.

16. (Currently Amended) A device control method in a system comprising

a) a unit including at least one of an input plug connected to a bus for ~~providing a~~inputting an input source ~~of signal input~~ signal to the unit from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for ~~providing a~~outputting an output source ~~of signal~~signal to the bus from the unit~~output~~, and

b) a subunit having at least a destination plug for ~~providing a source of signal input~~inputting the input source signal to the subunit from the input plug and a source plug for ~~providing a source of~~ supplying the output source signal to the bus from the subunit~~output to a bus~~, said method comprising the steps of:

a) signaling at least one of the output plug of the unit and the destination plug of the subunit one time to designate the source plug of the subunit as ~~athe signal source~~ source of the output source signal;

b) establishing a signal path between the source plug and at least one of the output plug of the unit and the destination plug of the subunit; and

c) determining one time from at least one of the unit and the subunit whether or not the input source signal ~~from the source plug of the subunit is received by~~input to the destination plug of the subunit.

17. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

e) determining from at least one of the unit and the subunit that a further signal has issued from at least one of the unit and the subunit after the signal source has been designated in accordance with at least one of the steps a) to d)

18. (Withdrawn) A device control method in a system comprising a plurality of units including an input plug for signal input and an output plug for signal output to a bus, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a signal from a first unit to a second unit to request a point-to-point connection between the second unit and a third unit; and

b) establishing point-to-point connection between the second unit and the third unit in response to the signal.

19. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 18, wherein the signal requesting the point-to-point connection includes information for specifying a unit as an object of the point-to-point connection.

20. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 18, wherein the second unit establishes point-to-point connection with the first unit.

21. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 18, wherein the signal requesting the point-to-point connection includes information specifying a plug as an object of the point-to-point connection.

22. (Withdrawn) The device control method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

c) determining whether or not the second unit previously established point-to-point connection with a unit other than the third unit designated by the signal, and if previously established,

1) terminates the previously established point-to-point connection between the second unit and the third unit; and

2) establishing a point-to-point connection between the second unit and the other unit.